

REPORT NO.

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East Germany

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Planning Center and National Forces
Base in Berlin-Friedrichsfelde-Ost

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. From 12 January to 2 February 1953, source determined that a National Forces base including a planning center (Armed Forces Construction Headquarters) camouflaged as Plant IV was located in the area of the former Magerviehnhof (slaughterhouse) in Berlin-Friedrichsfelde-Ost. The center, which worked for the National Forces as well as the Volkspolizei, included an administrative department and a technical department, with the latter comprising a surface and underground construction section, an irrigation and drainage section, and an installation and surveying section. Plant IV was founded on 15 December 1952 and was initially located at 7-8 Ehrlich Strasse, Berlin-Karlshorst. Its staff included: Werner Krause, manager; Berger (fnu), technical manager; Wieland (fnu), head of the personnel section; and crew leaders Mueller (fnu), Pietzsch (fnu), Schneider (fnu) and Kreuzig (fnu). The supervisory members of the staff were sworn in on 19 January 1953. Plant IV was assigned directly to the Ministry of the Interior and received instructions from the National Forces Department headed by Colonel Horst Praessler.¹
2. Plant IV started working on five towns for personnel of the National Forces each with a capacity of 1,200 to 4,000 and also worked on barracks and other military installation in the Eggesin-Torgelow area. With these barracks installations nearing completion and the planning work for the installations finished, Plant IV became a part of the National Forces Department at the Ministry of the Interior. The projects which were assigned to four construction brigades included one- and multi-family houses, tenement buildings, townhalls, banks, restaurants, co-operative and HO (East German Trade Organization) stores, schools, educational installations, party buildings, hospitals, hotels, gymnasiums and swimming pools. One of the projected towns was Altwarp on Stettiner Haff.
3. In late January 1953, the National Forces base, which had 80 trucks, 20 sedans and 15 busses, included a fuel depot with 5,000 x 200-liter barrels of Diesel fuel and an unidentified number of gasoline tanks of undetermined capacity as well as garages, workshops, storehouses and billeting buildings. A total of about 250 officers and EM wearing red-bordered green epaulets occupied the billeting buildings at the time of observation.²

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- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. Colonel Praessler is the head of the construction department in the Ministry of the Interior.
- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. Werner Krause was mentioned in a previous report by another source as head of the new planning office in Karlshorst which probably is the Plant IV of the present report. See [REDACTED]
- 25X1A [REDACTED]. The installation previously housed the HVA central equipment depot, which moved to Prossen in early 1952 and seems still to serve as a supply center.

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SECRET, [REDACTED]